
Streamlining the data ingestion process in the EMODnet context

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Thanks to EMODNET, the European marine and observation data network, since 2009, marine data have now their “one-stop-shop”. They are easy to find, freely available, interoperable and reliable. Bringing together more than 100 organisations that observe and measure the oceans, process data according to international standards, EMODNET is one of the most successful initiatives of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Quality controlled and accurate data of the maritime environment are critical to underpin the sustainable growth of the blue economy.

Many data however, collected by public authorities, researchers and private operators of coastal or offshore facilities still do not arrive to the national or regional repositories and are thus unavailable to scientists, engineers and other potential users. In order to facilitate and streamline the process whereby marine data from whatever source is delivered on a voluntary basis for safekeeping to data repositories from where it can be freely disseminated the European Commission granted recently a 3-year contract aiming at setting up a “data ingestion mechanism”.

The activities started recently (May 2016) and are undertaken by a European network of 44 organisations (governmental departments, marine research institutes and SME's) from 29 coastal countries. Geographically the network has nodes in the countries around all European marine basins and it covers also all EMODnet data themes.

The challenges and expectations are great: the major services must be made operational within the first year of the contract!

Our communication will present the technical principles of the Data Ingestion Portal, the associated work flows, the initiatives that will be taken to encourage the mobilization of new marine data resources and the foreseen provision for the sustainability of the portal.